

Clover Hill  
M:23-51  
Montgomery County, Maryland

Clover Hill, a large, 2-1/2-story, five-bay Italianate-style residence principally built circa 1857, is located on the west side of Zion Road at its intersection with Gregg Road, near Brookeville in northeastern Montgomery County, Maryland. The L-shaped stone house, set upon a stone foundation and clad with a stuccoed finish, is covered with a cross gable roof and features a central-passage plan. Although generally Italianate in style, the house has strong Gothic and Greek Revival details as seen in the windows and interior trim. The interior has a center-hall, one-room deep plan and two-room rear ell.

Clover Hill was built by Ephraim Gaither, a Maryland legislator (1817-1820) and locally prominent citizen. The house, which evolved from a one-room log structure to a three-room stone structure, to its present five-bay, central-passage configuration, provides a classic example of how domestic buildings evolved to accommodate the increasing stability of the young nation, and how they were modified to reflect stylistic preferences of the period (s). The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and meets Criterion C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-23-51

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Clover Hill

common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

=====

street & number 21310 Zion Road Not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Brookeville vicinity X state Maryland code MD  
county Montgomery code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 20833

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X private  
\_\_\_\_\_ public-local  
\_\_\_\_\_ public-State  
\_\_\_\_\_ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

X building(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_ district  
\_\_\_\_\_ site  
X structure  
\_\_\_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
_____	<u>1</u>	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes X Name of Listing Clover Hill No C 82002817

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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling;</u>
	<u>Secondary structure</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>Barn</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling;</u>
	<u>Secondary structure</u>

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

roof Gable: asphalt shingles

walls Stone: stuccoed

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance circa 1857-1957  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates circa 1857  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder George Davis  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Brookeville Farm Has Been Home to Succession of Military Men," *The Sentinel*, December 2, 1955.

Dwyer, Mike F., Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, "Clover Hill" (M:23-51), 1975.

Fleischer, Tana. "Mansion Transformed from Dilapidation to Showcase," *The Gazette*, October 19, 1988.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD*, Silver Spring, MD., 1952, 1962, p. 123.

Mandel, Janis A., National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, "Clover Hill" (M:23-51), 1982.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Montgomery County, MD.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 12 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

Clover Hill property occupies parcel 80 on Tax Map HV.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The approximately 12-acre parcel of land has maintained its size and configuration since the 18th century, when the property was described as "eight acres cleared and five acres marsh."

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kimberly Prothro Williams, Architectural Historian  
organization M-NCPPC date October 19, 1998  
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3403  
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910

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12. Property Owner

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name Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Tydings  
street & number 21310 Zion Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Brookeville state MD zip code 20833

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

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**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Clover Hill, a large, 2-1/2-story, five-bay residence principally built circa 1857, is located on the west side of Zion Road at its intersection with Gregg Road, near Brookeville in northeastern Montgomery County, Maryland. The L-shaped stone house, set upon a stone foundation and clad with a stuccoed finish, is covered with a cross gable roof and features a central-passage plan. A central projecting gable, with tri-partite windows, and a bracketed cornice, emphasizes the central entrance. Although generally Italianate in style, the house has strong Gothic and Greek Revival details as seen in the windows and interior trim. The interior has a center-hall, one-room deep plan and two-room rear ell.

Overall a product of 1857, the house at Clover Hill contains evidence of several earlier building campaigns. The initial building on the property, described in the 1783 Tax Assessments as "one old log dwelling house," possibly stood on the site of the northwest room (living room) in the rear wing of the present house.<sup>1</sup> In a second phase of construction, the log structure appears to have been rebuilt in stone.<sup>2</sup> This second phase of construction possibly occurred around 1794, based upon a description in the deed which refers to the house as a "dwelling plantation." Some time after this alteration in a third phase of construction, the former log dwelling was enlarged by the addition of a kitchen to the northeast and by a transverse hall running in front of the two-room structure. This hall includes a straight-flight open-stringer stair with three winders at the top. It has a simple handrail, square balusters, and an attenuated octagonal newel post. This stair appears to date from the last decade of the 18th century.

In a fourth phase of construction which occurred between 1799 and 1817, several rooms were added to the south front of the long, 18th-century hall. These rooms were entirely reworked during the

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<sup>1</sup> According to the National Register Nomination form for Clover Hill (1982), renovation work on the house in 1978 revealed that the foundation of this room had a different fieldstone from the rest of the house. In addition, the form notes that the fieldstone walls on the first story of this room differ from the walls of the second story and rest of the house, indicating that a stone structure had possibly earlier replaced the log structure on the site.

<sup>2</sup> The 1978 renovation work also revealed that the interior walls of the chimney in the kitchen were a combination of mudbrick and stone, indicating that the fireplace was the sole surviving remnant of the original log structure on the site. (National Register Nomination Form, Clover Hill).



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fifth phase of construction, leaving nothing of its early 19th-century appearance intact.

During the fifth phase of construction which took place in 1857-1858, the house was extensively enlarged and modified to become the cohesive five-bay, center-passage-plan house with transitional Greek Revival and Italianate-style detailing that survives today.

During this phase of construction, a third or attic story was added to the house and the front wing was entirely re-organized spatially. Ephraim Gaither, the owner of the property responsible for this major rebuilding, converted two rooms of the 1799-1817 south wing into a large hall with a rear spiral staircase running from the first to the third floors. This stair was constructed of walnut, cherry, and long leaf pine from trees cut and cured on the farm by the plantation blacksmith, George Davis. A corner stone signed and dated by George Davis upon completion in 1858, stands near the eaves in the attic of the mid-19th-century structure.<sup>3</sup> West of the main hall, Gaither built another room to replace the space taken away to accommodate his grand staircase. The fabric of Clover Hill remained intact to this 1857-1858 period of construction for almost one hundred fifty years.

In 1978, the house was renovated and, in the 1980s, a large, post-modern addition was added to the rear of the dwelling. At the same time, a large garage was built on the property, behind the dwelling.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The south elevation of Clover Hill is divided into five bays. The first story consists of a central entry flanked by two 6/6 windows, recessed into the stucco wall surface. The central entry, also set into the wall with paneled reveals, features a six-paneled door with a contemporary iron gate in front of it. The door is surrounded by three-light sidelights and a five-light transom. The door surround of cement and featuring a floral design was added in during the 1978 renovation.

The second story consists of a central tri-partite window flanked by 6/6 windows recessed into the stuccoed wall. The tri-partite window includes a central 6/6 sash with narrow 2/2 sash to either side. A wrought iron balcony projects in front of the lower half of this central window. Immediately above this, in the attic level of the central gable, is a three-part lancet window. This lancet

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<sup>3</sup> National Register Nomination form, Clover Hill.

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features four-light pointed-arch casements on center and three-light pointed-arch openings to the sides. The cornice with paired brackets, completes the south facade.

The west elevation extends one-room deep and has no openings on its principal floors. A central stone chimney is partially exposed to the second story, while its upper shaft protrudes through the roof, inside the attic level walls. Two, 6-light windows are located to either side of the chimney in the attic level. The bracketed cornice features bold cornice returns. At the ground level to the north of the chimney is a stone, gable-roofed, bulkhead entrance to the cellar.

The east elevation of the main block of the house has single 6/6 windows in the front bay of the stuccoed wall at the first and second stories and no openings in the rear bay. Four-light windows flank the interior end chimney at the attic level. The stone chimney shaft protrudes from the ridge of the gable.

The north (rear) wing of the house has been encapsulated on the east and north by recent additions which obscure the original fenestration pattern. The addition is sympathetic in its use of a stucco finish to unify the wall surfaces and in its use of gable roofs. The windows, including several "Palladian" windows give the addition a decidedly post-modern appearance.

The interior of the house was not surveyed; however an interior description of the house can be found in the National Register nomination form.

#### OUTBUILDINGS

Bank barn ruins: a large bank barn stood to the southwest of the main residence until 1993 when it burnt down. The stone foundation walls have been stabilized and mark the site of the former barn.

Spring house: a stone springhouse located immediately northeast of the main house is currently falling to ruins. The roof has collapsed and the stone walls, which still stand to the roof line, are beginning to fall.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Primarily a product of 1857-1858, the Italianate-style Clover Hill was built by Ephraim Gaither, a Maryland legislator (1817-1820) and locally prominent citizen. The house, which evolved from a one-room log structure to a three-room stone structure, to its present five-bay, central-passage configuration, provides a classic example of how domestic buildings evolved to accommodate the increasing stability of the young nation, and how they were modified to reflect stylistic preferences of the period (s). The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and meets Criterion C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Historic Context

Situated high on a knoll, on the tracts of land known as the "Addition to Brookegrove" and "Ridgeley's Ridge," Clover Hill began as a one-room log dwelling, possibly the residence of James Brooke. The property appears in the 1783 Tax Assessment, in the Upper Newfoundland District as "one old log dwelling house--approximately 25 miles from town with eight acres cleared and five marsh, which may be made meadow and sapling."

The "Addition to Brooke Grove" was one of many tracts of land owned by James Brooke, who at the time of his death in 1784 had approximately 20,000 acres to his name. This tract was transferred to his son, Thomas, when the 2,000 acres left in James' will, including the "Addition to Brookegrove" were divided among eight family members.<sup>4</sup>

In 1794, Thomas Brooke died, and Margaret Brooke was left the "Addition to Brookegrove." She maintained ownership until 1799, when she sold her share of the inheritance, 245 acres, for \$2,000.00 to Ephraim Gaither (1780-1857). Ephraim Gaither lived his life at Clover Hill, serving in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1817 through 1820 and in 1829, then continued to represent Montgomery County until his death in 1857. His obituaries identified him as an "old a prominent citizen" and lamented the loss of one of Montgomery County's "most useful, influential and valued citizens."<sup>5</sup> He was buried in the Gaither family plot at

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<sup>4</sup> Montgomery County Land Records, F6/F8; Frederick County Will Records, GM2/101.

<sup>5</sup> *Montgomery County Sentinel*, May 22, 1857, and as stated in the National Register Nomination Form, "Clover Hill" (1982).

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Pleasant Fields.

At the time Ephraim Gaither purchased the "Addition to Brooke Grove" in 1799, it was described as "land and premises together with all houses and outbuildings." This description indicates that the one-room log dwelling mentioned in the 1783 tax records had, at least, been complemented by other buildings by that time. In 1820, Ephraim Gaither married Sarah Elizabeth Goldsborough. The new couple is thought to have moved to Clover Hill where they lived together until Ephraim Gaither's death in May 1857. At his death, Ephraim Gaither left Clover Hill to his wife, Sarah Elizabeth, to hold during her lifetime and, following her death, to his son, Thomas Davis Gaither. In addition to the property, Ephraim left his wife \$2,000, farm equipment, and "six negroes." He also left his son, Thomas Gaither, 225 acres of his remaining land, along with \$1,500.00. It was provided in the will that Thomas was to manage his own farms as well as that of his mother.

Based upon a stone tablet imbedded into one end of the house near the eaves, on which is engraved: "Thomas D. Gaither, 1857," it is clear that Thomas Gaither began a major remodeling of Clover Hill immediately upon his father's death. During this phase of construction, Thomas D. Gaither, transformed the house from a three-room stone dwelling into a substantial, five-bay, center-hall house. Thomas Gaither built the magnificent spiral stair, constructed by the plantation blacksmith, George Davis. A stone, signed and dated by George Davis upon completion in 1858, is located near the eaves in the attic of the new structure. This stair is apparently unique in the county. It is rumored that hidden passages behind the stair were used to hide Colonel Gaither, a Confederate cavalry officer, when he was pursued by Federal soldiers from Washington during the Civil War. Lending some credibility to this legend was the 1927 discovery of a Civil War bayonet at the bottom of these passages.<sup>6</sup>

Clover Hill remained in Gaither family hands until 1891, when the heirs of Thomas Gaither defaulted on the mortgage, and State Senator Henry Benson purchased Clover Hill at a sheriff's sale. During his ownership, the senator planted an orchard on the property, on the site of an old slave burial ground. Some of the gravestones which were removed to build the orchard eventually found their way into a garden wall which adjoins the house, built

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<sup>6</sup> Brookeville Farm Has Been Home to Succession of Military Men, *The Sentinel*, December 22, 1955.

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in 1927, by then-owner Major J.W. Swaren, U.S. Army.<sup>7</sup> Major Swaren farmed the Clover Hill property during his ownership from 1924 until 1957. After 1957, the property changed hands several times.

In 1978, the property was purchased by Sheldon and Jan Mandel who undertook a multi-year renovation of the house, and made several significant modifications, including an addition to the north wing of the house and the construction of garage behind the house.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial-Urban Transition (1815-1870)

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and  
Community Planning

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling  
DOMESTIC/Smokehouse  
AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE/Barn

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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Chain of Title:

- 1784 "Addition to Brooke Grove" was one of many tracts owned by James Brooke, the Elder at his death in 1784. Thomas Brooke, son of James Brooke, received that tract, part of Addition to Brooke Grove and Ridgely's Ridge in the distribution of his father's estate. Liber F6 folio 58; Montgomery County Will Records GM 2/101.
- 1794 Thomas Brooke dies, divides land between eight family members. Mary Brooke Moore, daughter of Roger Brooke IV, receives this tract, part of Addition to Brooke Grove as part of her share in the distribution of her uncle Thomas Brooke's estate. Liber F6 Folio 71; Montgomery County Will Records B-405.
- June 29, 1795 Mary Brooke Moore and Thomas Moore, her husband, to William Gaither. Liber F Folio 15.
- July 29, 1799 Margaret Brooke, unmarried to Ephraim Gaither (245 acres for \$2,000). Liber H Folio 536.
- 1857 Ephraim Gaither dies. 200 acres of his land is left to his wife, Sarah, including the dwelling house and outbuildings. Following her death, the land to go to their son, Thomas Gaither. Will also gave Thomas Gaither remainder of 225 acres of farm.
- June 25, 1878 Thomas D. Gaither mortgages property to Gustavus Jones. Liber EBP 18 Folio 254
- January 7, 1891 State Senator Henry Benson purchases property at auction after heirs to Thomas Gaither fail to pay mortgage. Liber JA 23 Folio 333 and EBP 18/245.
- March 5, 1924 Heirs of Henry Benson to John W. Swaren. Liber 422 Folio 242.

June 21, 1957

John W. Swearin et ux to Stear Mark Corporation, including dwelling known as Clover Hill. Liber 2358 Folio 511.

September 25, 1957

Stear Mark Corporation to Richard H. Hutchison. Liber 2389 Folio 511.

May 31, 1978

Richard Hutchison and his wife, Emily to Sheldon E. Mandel and Janis A. Mandel. Property contains 12.108 acres. Liber 5191 Folio 216. (In 1984, Hutchison sells the adjacent tract of 129.151 acres to Samuel Riggs IV and Gordona C. Keys, his nephew.

1984



United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

M-23-51

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Clover Hill

and/or common Clover Hill

## 2. Location

street & number 21310 Zion Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Brookeville

☒ vicinity of

congressional district Eighth

state Maryland code 24

county Montgomery

code 031

## 3. Classification

### Category

☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

### Ownership

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

### Public Acquisition

☐ in process  
☐ being considered  
☒ N/A

### Status

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress  
**Accessible**  
☒ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

### Present Use

☐ agriculture  
☐ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military  
☐ museum  
☐ park  
☒ private residence  
☐ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transportation  
☐ other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs Sheldon R. Mandel

street & number 21310 Zion Road

city, town Brookeville

☐ vicinity of

state Maryland 20729

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Rockville

state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1978

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis

state Maryland

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Clover Hill as it exists today is a mid-nineteenth century, probably late 1850s, stuccoed masonry farm house located on a knoll to the west of Zion Road. The house is essentially rectangular in shape, two and a half stories high with a dormerless gable roof and a five-bay symmetrical facade characterized by a central cross gable, bracketed cornice, and tripartite windows and entranceway in the center bay. The building has a general Italianate influence with strong Gothic and Greek Revival details seen in the windows and interior trim. The interior is asymmetrical in arrangement and dominated by a free hanging circular staircase that rises to the attic level. The house was constructed in three or possibly four stages with the present general appearance, which covers the earlier details, completed about the late 1850s. The principal windows of the house have double-hung wood rectangular sashes with six-over-six lights. The property is enhanced by four nineteenth century outbuildings.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Clover Hill is situated facing north on the west side of Zion Road at its intersection with Gregg Road near Brookeville in Montgomery County, Maryland. It appears to be a two-story, five-bay structure with cross gable and two-story rear wing. The house was, however, built in four stages, beginning with a log house of the 1760s. This was extended between 1799 and 1817 by the addition of a hall and room. Later a four-room addition was added to the south and then a further change to its present appearance in the mid-nineteenth century. Built on fieldstone foundations, most of the house has 18-inch thick rubblestone walls. The stuccoing, apparently added in the 1850s, was repaired by the present owners.

At the south (front) facade, four fieldstone steps lead from the driveway to a short fieldstone walk and poured concrete stoop. The entrance, set into the wall with panels reveals, consists of a six-panel door (with small panels in the center flanked by pilasters and surrounded by three-light sidelights and a five-light transom. The door surround was executed in cement by the present owner and has a floral design scratched into the sides and reads "EST:1764", "Clover Hill", and "Mandel 1978" across the top.

Above the entrance on the south is a three-part window with 6/6 sash flanked by narrow 2/2 sash. An iron railing extends out from the lower half of the window. Above this in the cross gable is another three-part window. This one consists of a lancet window containing a casement sash with four lights per panel flanked by two narrow, three-light lancet sash. The remaining windows on this facade have 6/6, double-hung sash and new louvered shutters.

The boxed cornice has a plain frieze decorated with paired brackets on the south facade and east and west ends. The north facade and rear wing have plain boxed cornices.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Clover Hill

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The west end has two six-light windows in the gable. The chimney flue is exposed to second story height, and there is a gable-roofed, stone cellar entrance to the north of the flue. On the east end there are two four-light windows in the gable. The north facade of the main house is visible for two bays to the west of the wing. There are two 6/6 windows on each story.

The north end of the wing has one four-light window in the gable. The west facade has three openings on the second floor and a door in the south bay and a window in the north bay of the first floor. The three windows have 6/6 sash. The south bay on both floors contains a door. That on the second floor has a transom and multi-paned glass door with an iron balcony. The first floor also has a multi-paned door, with three-light transom. The east facade of the wing has a Dutch door in the center of the first floor.

The wing and house have perpendicular gable roofs, covered with brown asbestos shingles.

The present floor of the house consists of a central hall with a single room on either side in the main block, and two rooms in the wing with a hall running across the entire south end of the wing between these two rooms and the main block.

The south entrance opens into the central hall, which has rounded corners at its north end and a free-standing, circular, open-string stair as focal point. The stair has a carved cherry newel post, turned cherry balusters, and a walnut railing; the step-ends have a scroll decoration. The door surrounds in the hall are deep moldings with crossets. The hall was added to the house as two rooms circa 1800 with alterations, including the present stair, circa 1857-1858.

The parlor to the west of the hall (living room #1) is thought to have been the last addition to the house, built circa 1857. Door and window surrounds in this room are identical to the door surrounds in the hall. The windows here have paneled reveals.

The parlor to the east of the hall (dining room) was added to the house circa 1800 as two rooms.

A six-panel door with the small panels in the center and paneled reveals opens into the rear hall from both the main hall and the dining room. This hall, built in the late 18th century, has a stair in the northeast corner. This is an open-string stair with a straight run and three winders at the top. It has a simple hand rail, square balusters, and an octagonal newel post. The door surrounds in the hall have flat boards on two planes on the sides topped with a simple cornice. This section of the house is lower than the main block.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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received

date entered

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Clover Hill

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number

7

Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The northwest room in the wing (living room #2) is the oldest part of the house, a log structure built in the mid-18th century and rebuilt in stone later. The window and door surrounds are like those in the hall, and the mantel is a plain wooden one with unornamented pilasters and simple shelf/ The windows have paneled reveals. The original log structure was rebuilt in the late 18th century and the woodwork has dates from that time.

The northeast room in the wing (kitchen) was part of the first, late 18th century addition, when the interior of the original structure was redone. It has a large stone fireplace with brick hearth in the north wall and trim that matches the rest of this section.

The house has random-width floors of soft pine, poplar, and white oak.

Evidence of the early log house was found during renovation work in 1978. When the exterior stucco was removed from the northwest corner of the wing, it was found that this room had a fieldstone foundation separate from the rest of the house. Also, the fieldstone walls above the first story differed from those on the second story, and the interior walls of the fireplace were a mixture of decayed mud brick and fieldstone completely different from the construction of other fireplaces in the 18th century portion of the house. This evidence indicates an early rebuilding in stone of the log house in which only the fireplace of the original survived. Some time after this the kitchen and hall were added.

In the early 19th century (circa 1800) four rooms were added to the south wall of the long, late 18th century hall. When deteriorated stucco was removed in 1978 a doorway was found between the two windows.

This section was altered in 1857-1858, when its two west rooms were done over into the central hall and its two east rooms were made into one large room. At this time the third, attic level with cross gable was added, and the chimney in the east end of the south addition was rebuilt to match the chimney in the end of the new west room, giving the two interior end chimneys of today's main block.

The early 19th century (circa 1800) addition became the main portion of the house for a time, as evidenced by the original doorway found between the two windows of the east wall under deteriorated stucco work removed during restoration. The wing was connected by an entrance hall to the 18th century dwelling, which included a staircase, whose only reminder left is the pieced wooden floor of the east wing. Again, as in the 18th century section, the builders failed to match the floor levels of the old and new sections. The hall connecting the two structures drops 8 inches as one goes from the newer to the older section in the first floor and ascends 18 inches on the second floor.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

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Page 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Since 1858 the only major changes have been the installation of modern bath and kitchen facilities - the latter in the same room where the original hearth still stands, with its crane to hold kettles over the fire - and the removal of the stucco which had earlier been applied to the exterior walls. Due to the deterioration of the mud between the supporting fieldstone walls, it was necessary to replace the old stucco with new.

There are four outbuildings on the property, all of which are constructed in a similar manner.

- A. The closest to the main house on the east side is a nineteenth century all fieldstone smokehouse.
- B. At the northeast corner of the property is an all-fieldstone spring house with the cornerstone laid in 1877, which is the only water supply to the house.
- C. On the north side of the house is a nineteenth century large blacksmith's shed with fieldstone foundation, dowel and peg framing, and red clay brick hearth which still functions.
- D. On the southwest side of the property stands a large nineteenth century bank barn of fieldstone foundation and original dowel and peg framing.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

The justification for the 12+ acres stems to an eighteenth century transfer. Clover Hill property has always been transferred as approximately 12+ acres. In the 1783 tax records in the upper Newfoundland district, it is described as "eight acres cleared and five acres marsh." Since that time the property has always been transferred essentially the same way. When purchased by the present owners, it was described as 12.107 acres.

## 8. Significance

M-23-51

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1850s Builder/Architect unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criterion: C

The significance of Clover Hill in Montgomery County is derived from the architectural character of the house. The house embodies distinctive features of mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture in mid-and western Maryland. Characteristically these houses are two-and-a-half story masonry structures with dormerless gable roofs, symmetrical facades, and eclectic stylistic influences. In this particular example are seen the rectangular shape, the symmetrical facade and the eclecticism in design but also two features that are generally unusual, a stuccoed exterior and a free hanging circular staircase, particularly in Montgomery County. The stucco was added to the house when it took on its present appearance about the late 1850s. Unfortunately, little is known about the people associated with the house after it took on the present character.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Situated high on a knoll, on the tracts of land known as the "addition to Brookegrove" and "Ridgley's Ridge", Clover Hill began as a one-room planter's dwelling, possibly the residence of James Brooke in the Frederick County Debt Books of 1763. It appears in the 1783 Tax Assessment, in the Upper Newfoundland District as "one old log dwelling house - approximately 25 miles from town with 8 acres cleared and 5 acres marsh, which may be made meadow and sapling."

The "Addition to Brookegrove" was one of many tracts of land owned by James Brooke, who at the time of his death in 1784 owned approximately 20,000 acres. This tract was transferred to his son, Thomas, when the 2,000 acres left in James' will, including the "Addition to Brookegrove", were divided among eight family members.<sup>2</sup>

In 1794 Thomas Brooke died, and Margaret Brooke was left the "Addition to Brookegrove".<sup>3</sup> She maintained ownership until 1799, when she sold her share of the inheritance, 245 acres, for \$2,000., to Ephraim Gaither, distinguished for his roles in the Maryland Legislature and humanitarian causes. By then, the "Addition to Brookegrove" was described as "land and premises together with all houses and buildings".<sup>4</sup>

Transformation of the humble log dwelling of 1783 into something grander is hinted at in the 1794 deed, which describes the house as a dwelling plantation.

Between 1799, when Ephraim Gaither took ownership, and approximately 1817, a south addition was added, consisting of four rooms.<sup>5</sup> Major Ephraim Gaither married Sarah Elizabeth Goldsborough.<sup>6</sup> Ephraim served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1817 through 1820 and in 1829, then continued to represent Montgomery County until his death in 1857.<sup>7</sup> His obituary referred to him by

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Continuation sheet Clover Hill Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

stating that Montgomery County had lost one of its most useful, influential, and valued citizens, no matter what the cause, be it military, legislative, or defending freedoms as he had done in 1812, when he volunteered his services to the "Federal Republican Press" in Baltimore and suffered a musket shot.<sup>8</sup>

The plantation was left to Sarah, Ephraim's wife, but under management by their son, Thomas Davis Gaither. In the event of her death, Thomas received all of the estate.<sup>9</sup>

In the same year as his father's death, 1857, Thomas Gaither began extensive additions to the old stone house. He converted two rooms of the south addition into a hall with a rare spiral staircase running from the first to the third floors. This was built of walnut, cherry, and long leaf pine from trees cut and cured on the farm by the plantation blacksmith, George Davis. A corner stone signed and dated by George Davis upon completion in 1858 stands near the eaves in the attic of the 19th century structure.

This stair, unique in Montgomery County, is the high point of Clover Hill's architectural design. It has no supporting posts or rails and is anchored to the wall on the outside diameter of the spiral, supported on the cantilever principle. Hidden passages behind the staircase are rumored to have hidden Colonel Gaither, a Confederate cavalry officer, when he was pursued by Federal soldiers from Washington during the Civil War. Lending credibility to this romantic legend was the discovery in 1927 of a Civil War bayonet at the bottom of these passages.<sup>10</sup>

West of the main hall, Thomas built another room to replace the space of the two rooms used for his magnificent staircase. With its completion in 1858, the fabric of Clover Hill as it stands today was essentially complete.<sup>11</sup>

Clover Hill remained in the Gaithers' ownership until 1891, when State Senator Henry Benson purchased it at a sheriff's sale.<sup>12</sup> The sale was ordered after foreclosure of a mortgage which Thomas Davis Gaither's heirs had failed to pay. Senator Benson's only addition to his new plantation was an orchard he planted on the site of an old slave burial field. To do this it was necessary to remove over 350 gravestones, which eventually found their way into a garden wall which adjoins the house, built in 1927, when Clover Hill came under the ownership of Major J. W. Swaren.<sup>13</sup>

Clover Hill has changed hands many times since the construction of that garden wall, the most recent being its present owners in Mary of 1978;<sup>14</sup> but nothing has changed since 1857, when Thomas Davis Gaither, with the help of the multi-talented blacksmith, George Davis, created his magnificent spiral staircase.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

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FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup>Farquhar, Roger Brooke, History and Homes of Montgomery County, p. 123.
- <sup>2</sup>Montgomery County Land Records, F6/58; Frederick County Will Records, GM 2/101.
- <sup>3</sup>Montgomery County Deed F6/71/Montgomery County Will Records, B-405.
- <sup>4</sup>Montgomery County Deed H/536
- <sup>5</sup>Farquhar, pp. 123-4.
- <sup>6</sup>Gaither Family Bible.
- <sup>7</sup>Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland, pp.132-3.
- <sup>8</sup>Scharf, J. Thomas, Chronicles of Baltimore, pp. 312-3
- <sup>9</sup>Newman, Harry Wright, Anne Arundel Gentry, Vol. I, pp. 140-3.
- <sup>10</sup>Interview with Major J. W. Swaren, then owner of Clover Hill, Montgomery County Sentinel, December 22, 1955.
- <sup>11</sup>Cornerstone of Clover Hill staircase addition, signed and dated.
- <sup>12</sup>Montgomery County Deed JA23/333; EPB 18/254.
- <sup>13</sup>Montgomery County Deed 422/242.
- <sup>14</sup>Montgomery County Deed 5141/216.



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Clover Hill  
Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 9

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.  
Gaither Family Bible (in possession of R. H. Hutchinson, Jr.)  
Cornerstone for Clover Hill staircase addition.  
Frederick County Debt Books, 1763.  
Tax Assessments, 1783, Upper Newfoundland District

SECONDARY SOURCES

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Louis H. Everts, 1882.

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Baltimore: Howard County Historical Society, 1972.

Montgomery County Sentinel, 12/22/55, "Brookeville Farm Has Been Home to Succession  
of Military Men".

Newman, Harry Wright. Anne Arundel Gentry. Vol. I. Annapolis, Maryland:  
by the author, 1970

Interviews: Mr. Samuel Riggs IV, Laytonsville, Maryland  
Normal Sealing, restorer of old homes, Mount Airy, Maryland.

## 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

M:23-51

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 12.107 acresQuadrangle name Sandy SpringQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	8	3	1	9	3	1	0	4	3	4	1	7	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	8	3	1	9	1	7	0	4	3	4	1	4	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	8	3	1	8	9	7	0	4	3	4	1	5	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	8	3	1	9	0	8	0	4	3	4	1	8	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are delineated on attached map.

For justification, see CONTINUATION SHEET #3

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janis A. Mandel

organization

date May 1982street & number 21310 Zion Road

telephone

city or town Brookevillestate Maryland

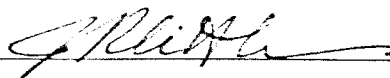
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------	---

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

6/3/82title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Clover Hill

2. Planning Area/Site Number 23/51

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 9  
C-10

4. Address 21310 Zion Road, Brookeville

## 5. Classification Summary

Category buildingOwnership privatePublic Acquisition --Status occupiedAccessible yes; restrictedPresent use private residencePrevious Survey Recording M-MCPC Federal State X County X Local   

(Title and date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976 )

6. Date Late 18th century

7. Original Owner James Brooke

## 8. Apparent Condition

a. goodc. original siteb. altered

## 9. Description

This handsome, five bay by four bay, two and a half story, L-shaped house faces south. The house has 18" thick rubblestone walls now covered by beige stucco. The south wooden paneled door has a door surround with a floral design along sides, the name "Clover Hill" centered on the lintel and flanked by "Est. 1764" and "Mandel 1978". There are six over six windows. In the south cross gable there is a three-part lancet window. The intersecting gable roof has brown asbestos shingles. The most unusual interior feature is the south oval hall and the free standing circular stairway built in 1857.

10. Significance: Clover Hill is important as an early dwelling which evolved into a formal high style house and thus is typical of Montgomery County family seats. In the 19th century, the addition of the dramatic hallway and suspended spiral staircase--the only freestanding staircase in Montgomery County--gave the house a new dignity. The house is also significant for its association with the Gaither family, long active in Maryland government and in Montgomery County civic affairs. Clover Hill probably began as a one room planter's dwelling in 1763, the residence of James Brooke, one of the largest landowners in Maryland. Ephraim Gaither took ownership in 1799 and by 1817 had added a west wing of four rooms. Gaither served in the Maryland House of Delegates and was an influential County citizen. At Ephraim's death in 1867, his son Thomas began extensive additions, including the rare spiral staircase, and another wing. Clover Hill remained in the Gaither's ownership until 1891 when it was purchased by State Senator Henry Benson, whose only change was to plant an orchard on the site of an old slave burial field. It has changed hands many times since.

11. Date researched and researcher December 1978 -- Janis Mandel

12. Compiler Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled 2/79

Candy Reed - Architectural Description  
14. Designation  
Approval   

15. Acreage 12.1 acres

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 23/51  
MAGI#

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC Clover Hill

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 21310 Zion Road

CITY, TOWN

Brookeville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Sheldon R. and Janis A. Mandel

Telephone #: 840-8572

STREET & NUMBER

21310 Zion Road

CITY, TOWN

Brookeville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20729

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 5141

Folio #: 216

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M:23-51

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This handsome 5 bay by 4 bay, 2½ story, L-shaped house faces north. Built on fieldstone foundations, the house has 18" thick rubblestone walls and was recently recovered by beige stucco. On the south elevation, 4 fieldstone steps lead from the driveway to a short fieldstone walk and a poured concrete stoop. The south wooden paneled door is flanked by 3 sidelights and surmounted by a 5 light transom. A modern door surround, designed and executed in cement by the present owner, has a floral design along the side; the name "Clover Hill" is centered on the lintel and, on the left "EST: 1764" and on the right "Mandel 1978".

On the east elevation there is a poured concrete slab stoop. There is a Dutch door on the east elevation. On the west elevation, north ell, there is a multi-paned glass door surmounted by a three light transom.

There are six over six double hung windows throughout the house. At the second level, south elevation, there is a six over six double hung window flanked by two over two double hung windows. In the cross gable, there is a three part lancet window composition. The east gable end has two four-light windows, the west gable end has two six-light windows, and the north gable end has one four-light window.

The house has an intersecting gable roof with a cross gable on the south elevation. The roof has brown asbestos shingles. The box and return cornice line is bracketed on the east and west sections of the south elevation.

The south door opens into an oval hall. A free-standing, circular, open string stairway is the focal point of this room. The stairway has a carved cherry newel post, turned cherry balusters, and a walnut railing. To the west of the hall is a room thought to have been the last addition made to the house, about 1857, when the oval hall and stairway were built. There is a room to the east. From both the east room and the hall, doors lead into a back hallway on an east-west axis. On the north interior wall there is an open string, single run stairway with three winder steps. These "back" stairs have a very simple handrail and square balusters. There is a room northwest of the hall and the kitchen is northeast of the hall. Because renovation work was in progress, the use of each room was not specified. The owner plans to modernize the kitchen.

The house has random-width floors of soft pine, poplar, and white oak. There are plaster over lath and plasterboard walls and ceilings. There are both simple and molded door surrounds and paneled doors. The door leading from the oval hall to the back hall is curved and angled at one corner to accommodate the stairway and the oval shape of the hall. There are deep paneled window reveals in the south section. There is a painted plaque in the attic which reads "Geo. Davis, builder G.W.C., L.P. Painters in General, May 5, 1858, No. 1".

Evidence of the humble log dwelling house was noted during restoration of the building in 1978. When the exterior stucco was removed from the oldest room of the house, it was found that this room had its own foundations of fieldstone separate from that of the rest of the house. Moreover, the fieldstone walls above and below the first-floor eaves differed from one another in color and size of stone used, suggesting the second story was a later addition. Also, the inside walls of the fireplace were a

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet 1)

Clover Hill  
Attachment Sheet 1

mixture of decayed mud brick, and fieldstone, completely different from the composition of other fireplaces in the 18th century portion of the house. All in all, the evidence pointed to an early rebuilding in stone, in which only the fireplace survived from the original log dwelling, and then a second stage in which a larger stone mansion was built up around the earlier one-room house.

An 8 inch descent in the floor level of the upstairs hallway in the older portion of the house provides further evidence of a second stage of development in the late 18th century.

The early 19th century wing became the main portion of the house for a time, as evidenced by the original doorway, found between the two main windows of the east wing, under deteriorated stucco work removed during restoration. The wing was connected by an entrance hall to the 18th century dwelling, which included a staircase, whose only reminder left is the pieced wooden floor of the east wing. Again, as in the 18th century section, the builders failed to match the floor levels of the old and new sections. The hall connecting the two structures drops 8 inches as one goes from the newer to the older section in the first floor and ascends 18 inches on the 2nd floor.

Since 1858 ~~the~~ only major changes have been the installation of modern bath and kitchen facilities -- the latter in the same room where the original hearth still stands, with its crane to hold kettles over the fire -- and the removal of the stucco which had earlier been applied to the exterior walls. Due to the deterioration of the mud between the supporting fieldstone walls, it was necessary to replace the old stucco with new.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Local History	

SPECIFIC DATES Late 18th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Clover Hill is important as an early dwelling which evolved into a formal 19th century family seat. The addition of the dramatic hallway, suspended spiral staircase, unique in the County, and west front room gave the house a dignity not found in the original house.

Also significant is its association with the Gaither family, long active in Maryland government and Montgomery County civic affairs.

Situated high on a knoll, on the tracts of land known as the "Addition to Brookegrove" and "Ridgley's Ridge", Clover Hill began as a one room planter's dwelling, possibly the residence of James Brooke in the Frederick County Debt Books of 1763. It appears in the 1783 Tax Records, in the Upper Newfoundland District, as "one old log dwelling house -- approximately 25 miles from town with 8 acres cleared and 5 acres marsh, which may be made meadow and sapling."

The "Addition to Brookegrove", was one of many tracts of land owned by James Brooke, who at the time of his death, in 1784, was one of the largest land owners in Maryland with approximately 20,000 acres to his name.<sup>1</sup> It then transferred to his son, Thomas, whose last will and testament deeded 2,000 acres, which included the "Addition to Brookegrove" to be divided amongst eight family members.<sup>2</sup>

In 1794, Thomas Brooke died, and Margaret Brooke was deeded the "Addition to Brookegrove".<sup>3</sup> She maintained ownership until 1799, when she sold her share of the inheritance, 245 acres, for the sum of \$2,000 to Ephraim Gaither, distinguished for his roles in the Maryland Legislature and humanitarian causes. By then, the "Addition to Brookegrove" was described as "land and premises together with all houses and buildings".<sup>4</sup>

Transformation of the humble log dwelling of 1783 into something grander is hinted at in the 1794 deed, which describes the house as a dwelling plantation.

Between 1799, when Ephraim Gaither took ownership, and approximately 1817, a west wing was added, consisting of four rooms.<sup>5</sup> Major Ephraim Gaither married Sarah Elizabeth Goldsborough.<sup>6</sup> Ephraim served in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1817, 18, 19, 20 and 1829, then continued to represent Montgomery County until his death in 1857.<sup>7</sup> His obituary referred to him by stating that Montgomery County had lost one of its most useful, influential, and valued citizens, no matter what the cause, be it military, legislative, or defending freedoms as he had done in 1812, when he volunteered his services to the "Federal Republican Press" in Baltimore, and suffered a musket shot.<sup>8</sup>

The plantation was left to Sarah, Ephraim's wife, but under management by their son, Thomas Davis Gaither. In the event of her death, Thomas received all of the estate.<sup>9</sup>

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

M:23-51

See Attachment Sheet B

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12.107 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment Sheet E

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Janis A. Mandel

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

December 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~  
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~  
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~  
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510



Clover Hill  
Attachment Sheet A

In the same year as Ephraim's death, 1857, Thomas began extensive additions to the old stone house. He converted two rooms of the east wing into a rare spiral staircase, running from the first to the third floors. It was built of walnut, cherry, and long leaf pine from trees cut and cured on the farm by the plantation blacksmith, George Davis. A corner stone signed and dated by George Davis, upon completion in 1858, stands near the eaves in the attic of the 19th century structure.

This staircase, unique in Montgomery County, is the high point of Clover Hill's architectural design. It has no supporting posts or rails, and is anchored to the wall on the outside diameter of the spiral, supported on the cantilever principle. The hidden passages behind the staircase are rumored to have hidden Colonel Gaither, a Confederate cavalry officer, pursued by Federal soldiers from Washington during the Civil War. Lending credibility to this romantic legend was the discovery in 1927, of a Civil War bayonet at the bottom of these passages.<sup>10</sup>

Immediately adjacent to the main hallway, Thomas built still another wing, to replace the two rooms used for his magnificent staircase.

With its completion in 1858,<sup>11</sup> the fabric of Clover Hill as it stands today was essentially complete.

Clover Hill remained in the Gaithers' ownership until 1891, when State Senator Henry Benson purchased it at a sheriff's sale.<sup>12</sup> The sale was ordered after foreclosure of a mortgage which Thomas Davis Gaither's heirs had failed to pay. Senator Benson's only addition to his new plantation was to plant an orchard on the site of an old slave burial field. To do this it was necessary to remove over 350 gravestones, which eventually found their way into a garden wall which adjoins the house. It was built in 1927, when Clover Hill came under the ownership of Major J.W. Swaren.<sup>13</sup>

Clover Hill has changed hands many times since the construction of that garden wall, the most recent being its present owners in May of 1978;<sup>14</sup> but nothing has changed, since 1857, when Thomas Davis Gaither, with the help of the multi-talented blacksmith, George Davis, realized his architectural dream and created his magnificent spiral staircase, so unique to Montgomery County.

Attachment Sheet B  
Clover Hill

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### SECONDARY

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Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland, Louis H. Everts, Phila., 1882,  
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Farquhar, Roger Brooke, History and Homes of Montgomery County, Judd &  
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Succession of Military Men".  
Newman, Harry Wright, Anne Arundel County Gentry - Vol. 1, Author published,  
Annapolis, Md., 1970.

### Interviews:

Mr. Samuel Riggs IV, Laytonsville, Md.  
Normal Sealing, restorer of old homes, Mt. Airy, Md.

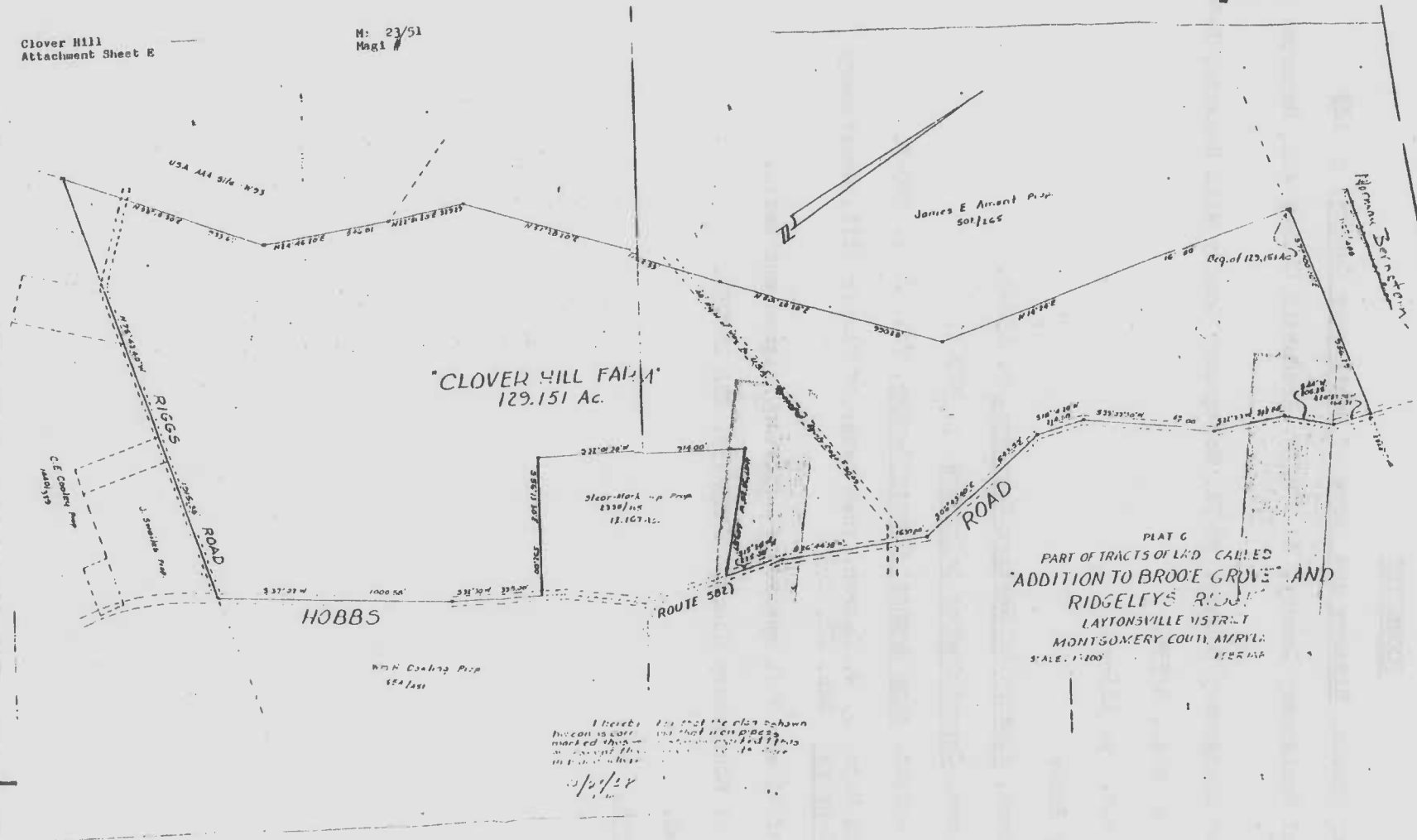
FOOTNOTES

1. Farquhar, Roger Brooke, History and Homes of Montgomery County, p. 123
2. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. F6/58; Frederick County Will Records, GM 2/101.
3. Land Records of Montgomery County, F6/71; Montgomery County Will Records, B-405.
4. Land Records, op. cit., H/536.
5. Farquhar, op. cit., p. 123-4.
6. Gaither Family Bible.
7. Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland, p. 132-3.
8. Scharf, J. Thomas, Chronicles of Baltimore, p. 312-3.
9. Newman, Harry Wright, Anne Arundel County Gentry, Vol. I, p. 140-3.
10. Interview with Major J. W. Swaren, then owner of Clover Hill, Montgomery County Sentinel, Dec. 22, 1955.
11. Cornerstone of Clover Hill staircase addition, signed and dated.
12. Land Records of Montgomery County, JA23/333; EBP 18/254.
13. Ibid., 422/242.
14. Ibid., 5141/216.

Clover Hill  
Attachment Sheet E

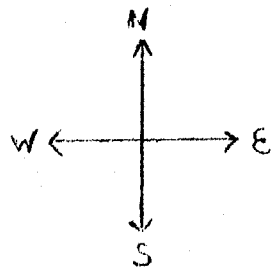
M: 23/51  
Mag1 #

105879 - 1

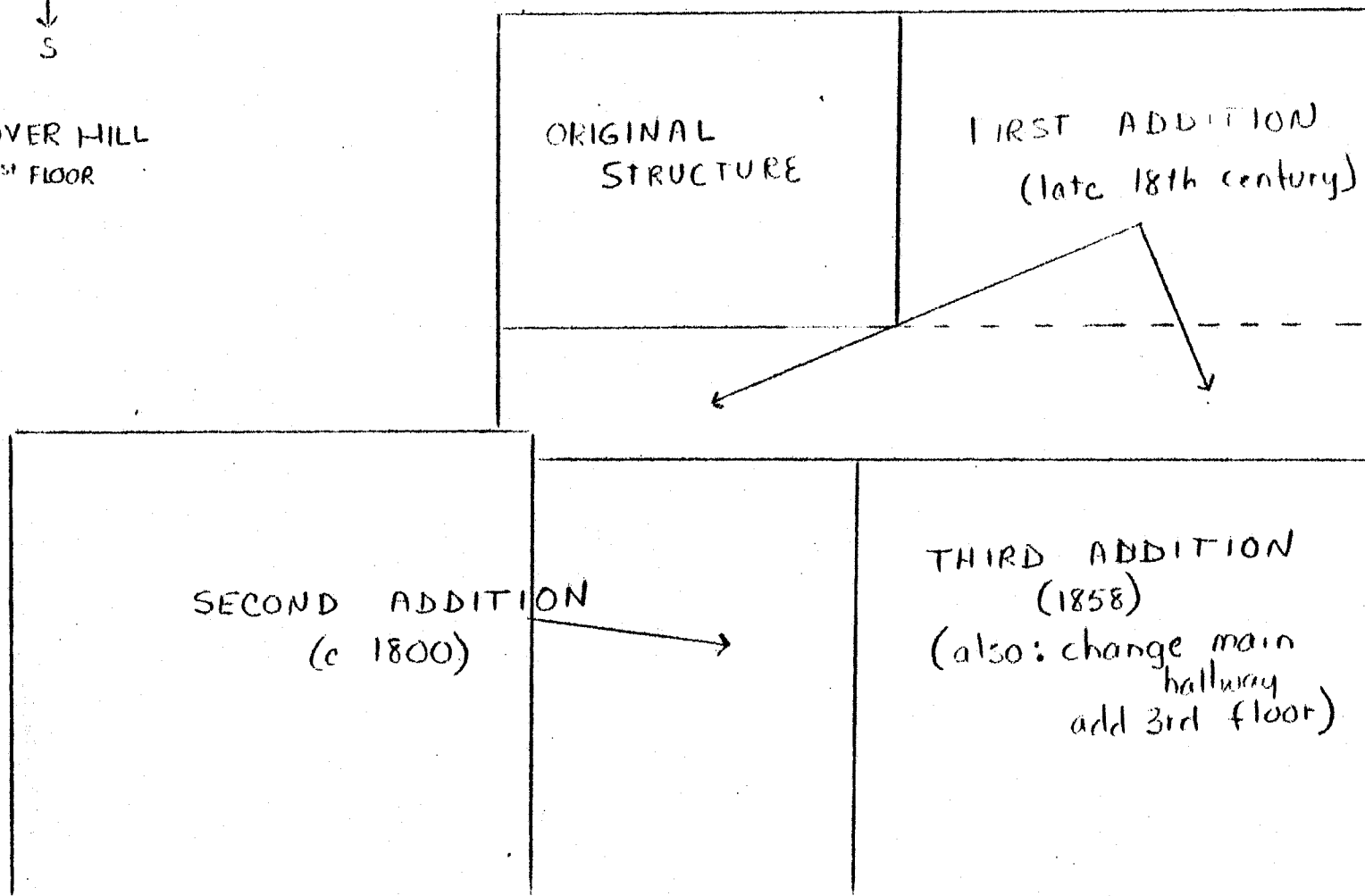


M.23-51

M:23-51



CLOVER HILL  
1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR



Hand-drawn floor plan of a two-story house. The plan includes a front porch (8'0" x 12'0"), a living room #1 (12'0" x 16'0") with a fireplace, a living room #2 (12'0" x 16'0") with a fireplace, a kitchen (12'0" x 16'0") with a sink and stove, a bathroom (7'0" x 7'0"), a central hallway (18'0" x 10'0"), and a bedroom (12'0" x 16'0"). The plan also shows a staircase, a closet, and various windows and doors. Dimensions are provided for all rooms and features.

JOSEF.

WIND: 25

1955

17

# CLOVER HILL (M: 23-51)



casual User Application



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760



Scale 1" = 500'



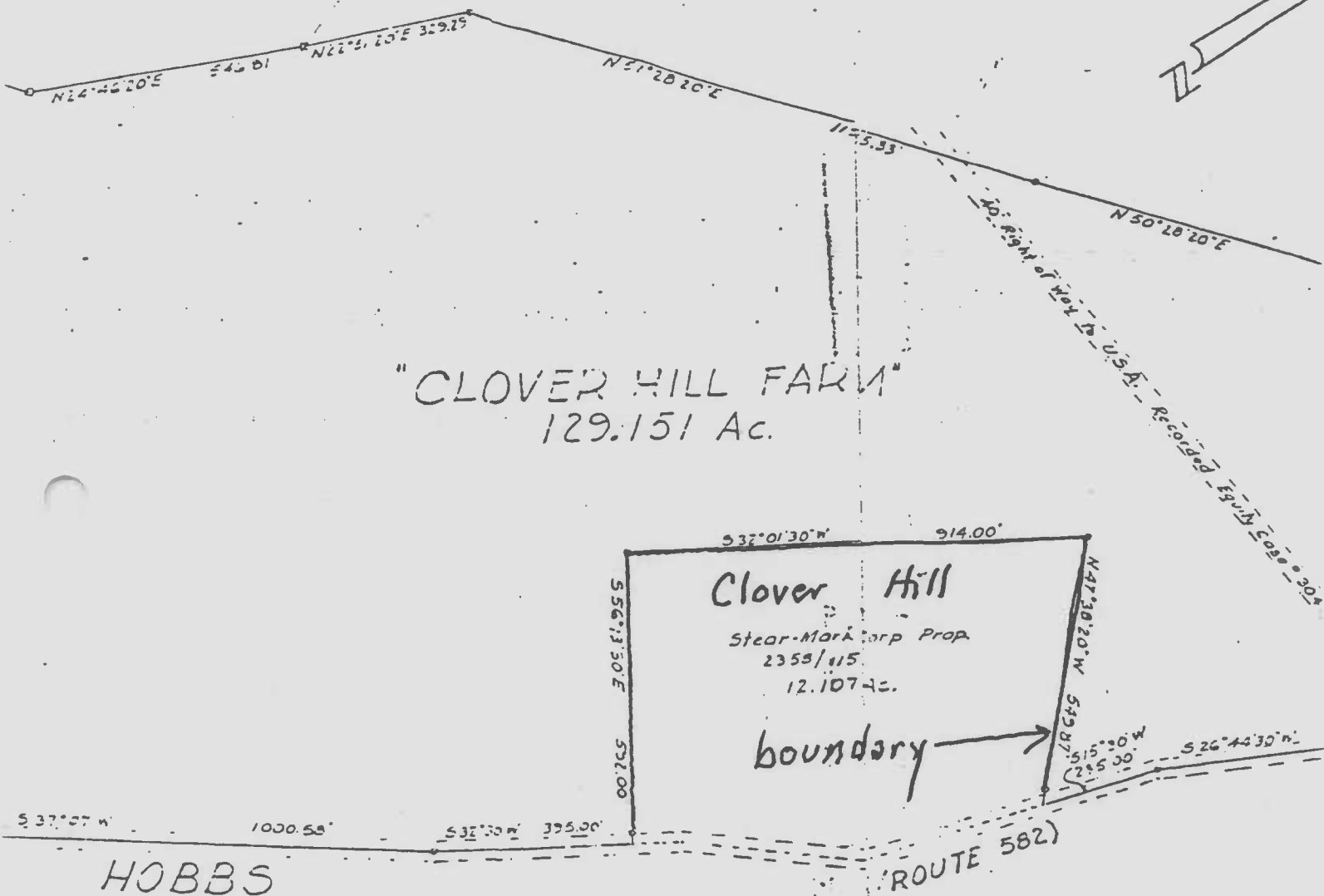
M:23-51

Clover Hill  
Montgomery Co.  
Maryland

boundary 1981

Scale 1" = 200'

23



"CLOVER HILL FARM"  
129.151 Ac.

Clover Hill

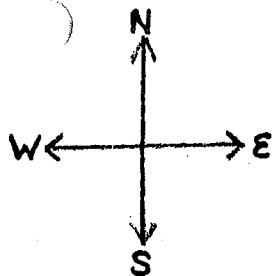
Stear-Mark Corp Prop  
2353/115  
12.107 Ac.

boundary →

I hereby certify that the plan shown  
hereon is correct and that iron pipes  
marked thus → are located at the  
points where the boundary lines are  
shown.

2/2/28

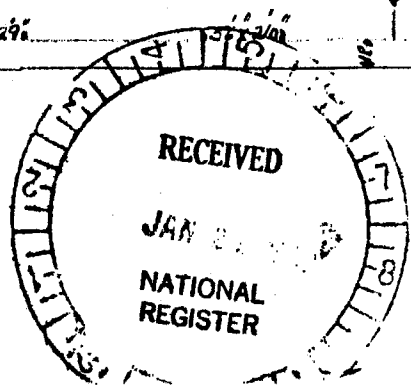
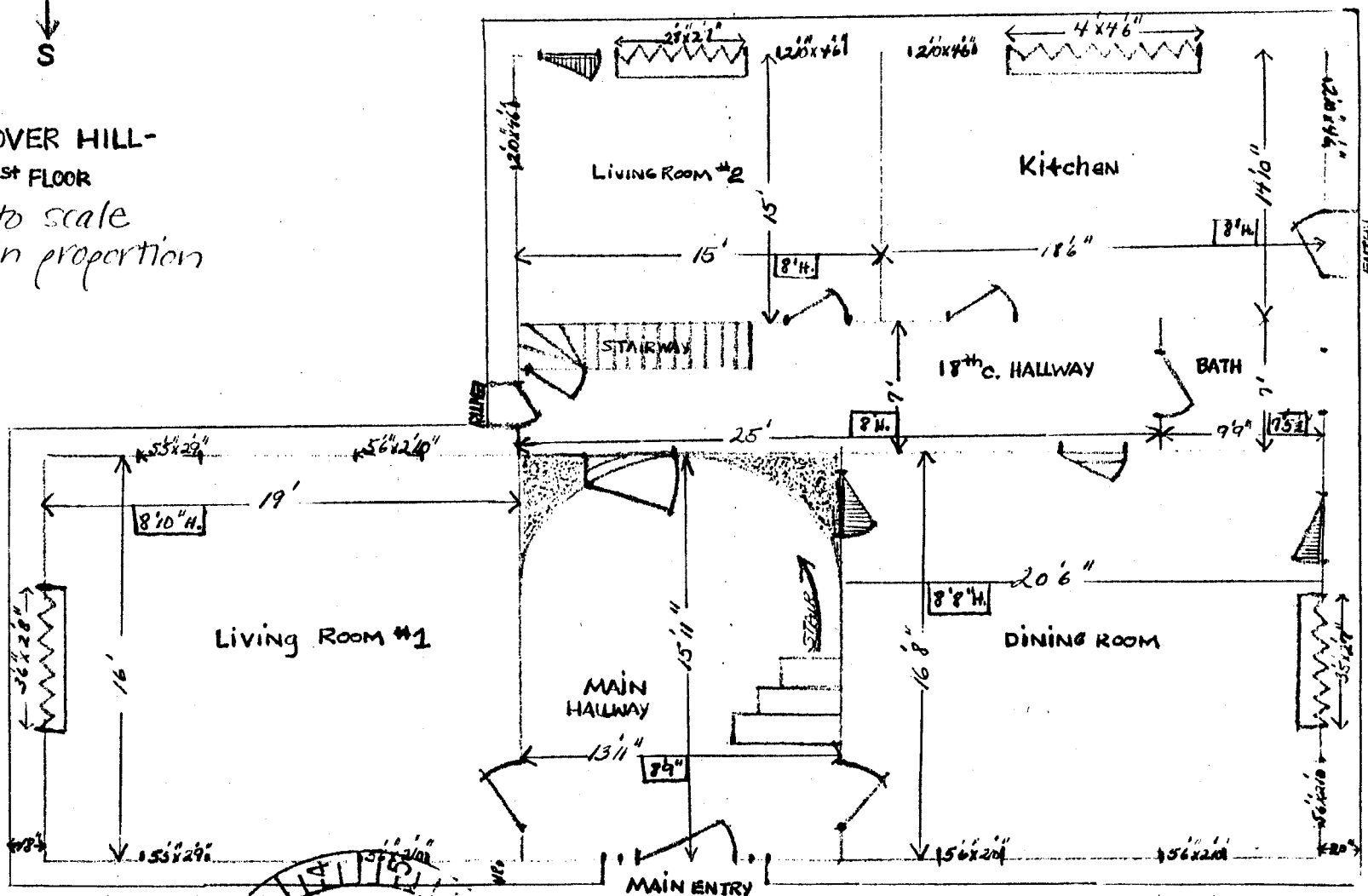




- CLOVER HILL -  
1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR

not to scale  
not in proportion

Clover Hill  
Montgomery Co.  
Maryland  
floor plan

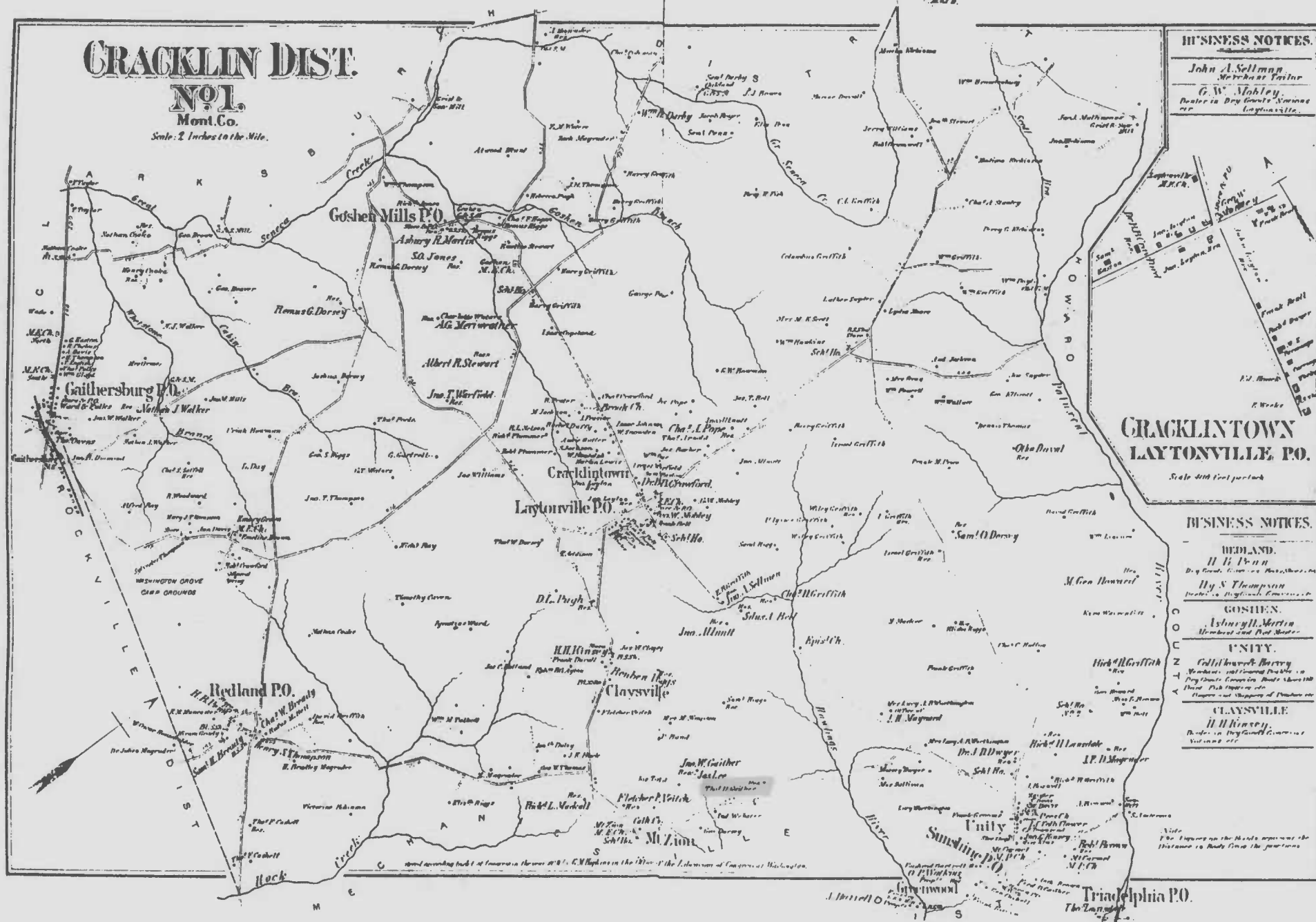


- HIDDEN PASSAGES - 1<sup>ST</sup> THRU 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOORS
- CLOSETS
- WINDOWS
- DOORWAY
- FIRE PLACE
- STAIRWAY - STEPS

M-23-51

**NO. 1.**  
Mont. Co.

Scale: 2 inches to the mile.



### BUSINESS NOTICES

John A. Sellman,  
Merchant Tailor  
G. W. Mahley,  
Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions  
and  
Lugtonville.

CRACKLINTOWN  
LAYTONVILLE, PO.

Scale with first part only

## BUSINESS NOTICES

HEDLAND.  
H B P n n  
D. q. Grand. C. 1890. no. 100, 110, 120.

GOSHEN.  
Isbryll, Morten  
Wholesale and Retail Dealer.

UNIVERSITY.  
College Street, Bombay.

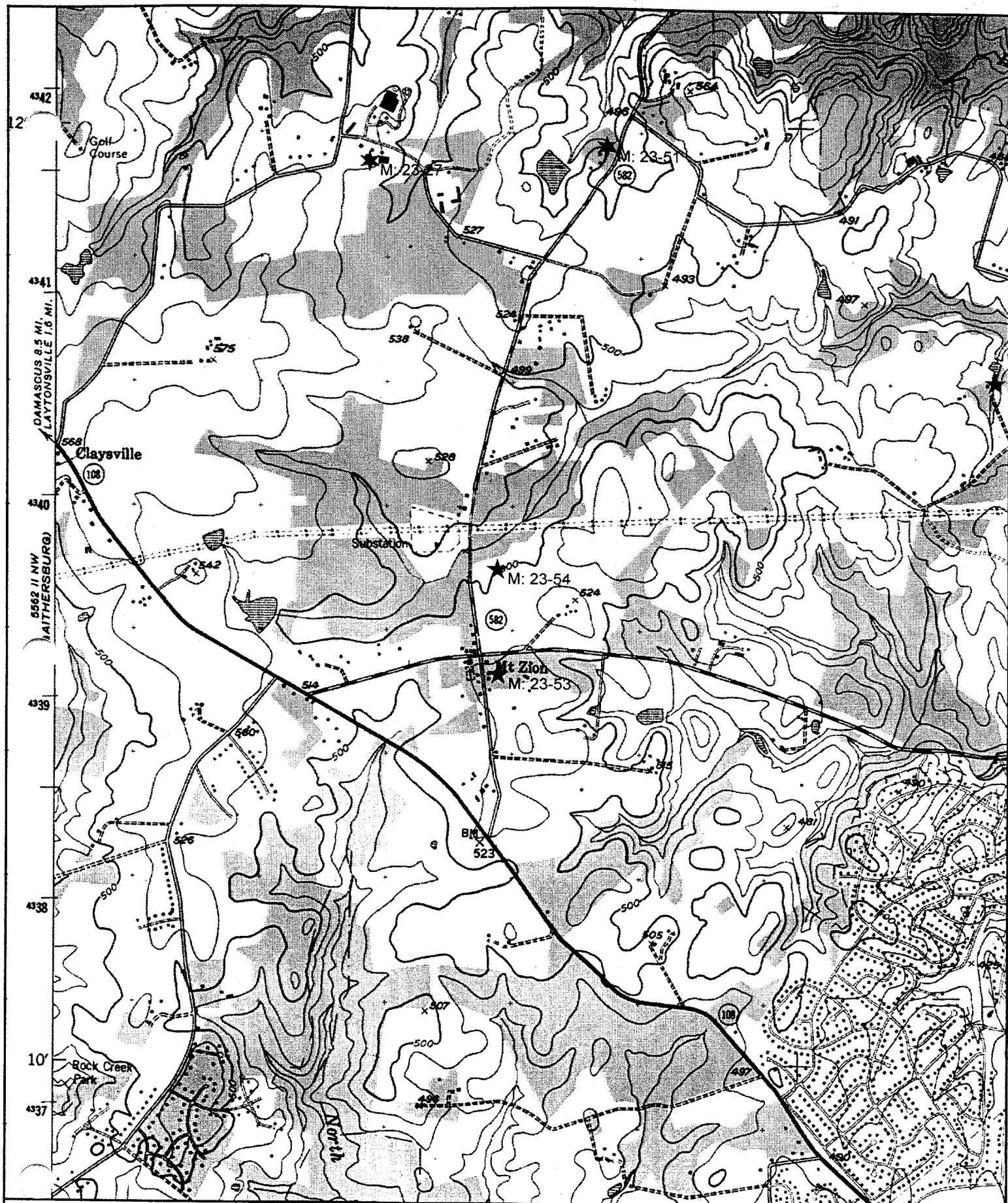
CLAYVILLE

H H Kinsey,  
Profr. in the Faculty of Commerce  
Victoria etc

View  
The diagram on the Model's experiment the

Hopkins, G.M., comp. *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

M: 23-51



Name: SANDY SPRING  
 Date: 7/13/99  
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 11' 12.9" N 077° 05' 58.4" W  
 Caption: CLOVER HILL (M: 23-51)  
 21310 Zion Rd.



M:23-51  
Clover Hill  
21310 Zion Road, Laytonville

**Jennifer K. Cosham**  
**March 7, 2004**  
**Digital color photo on file at MHT**



23-51  
CLOVER HILL  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD  
KIM WILLIAMS  
1-4-99  
MARYLAND SHPO  
SOUTH ELEVATION LOOKING NORTH  
1 OF 4





23-51

CLOVER HILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

1-4-99

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST ELEVATION LOOKING WEST

2 OF 4



23-51

CLOVER HILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

1-4-99

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION LOOKING SOUTH

3 of 4



1123-51

23 ~~24~~

CLOVER HILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

1-4-00

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION LOOKING EAST

4 of 4

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Clover Hill

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

21310 Zion Road

CITY, TOWN

Brookeville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☒ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Richard H. Hutchison, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER (presently for sale)

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M: 23-51

## CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

See (enclosed) architectural description by Mrs. Eugenia Riggs of "Cherry Hill" (1974.)

There are several outbuildings nearby, including a stone springhouse and a frame bank barn with louvered window/vents (now covered with tin siding.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M:23-51

**PERIOD****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

**SPECIFIC DATES****BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

See Farquhar's OLD HOMES AND HISTORY OF MONT. CO., MD.  
(1961) pp. 123, 124. (enclosed)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:23-51

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

1975

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Front section with center hall and a room on each side, added about 1830 or 40 to an older house. (Some date it by the name of Thomas D. Gaither written on an attic partition and dated 1857. (This seems late for the style of woodwork but in back country houses there could be a lag in style up as much as fifty years but by the time the Greek Revival and Victorian periods arrived there was more communication and the people were more aware of the latest trends.)

The center hall is almost square but curved in back where the door entering a back hall & the earlier section is curved to conform to the line of the wall. The stair is circular to top floor, creating a 'well' three stories high. The end of the steps have brackets with more curves than the Adams and Georgian periods, indicative of the jig saw. However they are decorative. The balusters are well designed Victorian type. The hand rail is oval <sup>having a flat base outlined with a</sup> and the newel through <sup>modeled</sup> Victorian has more grace than most of the

Several. The doors have a low pedimental  
 lintel, <sup>seen on Greek temples</sup> with small dog ears at sides.  
 There is a back band moulding continuous  
 around the outside <sup>of the entire train</sup> and a smaller moulding  
 outlining the inside opening making them  
 quite plain and attractive. The doors have  
 six raised panels outlined with mouldings.  
 The long panels are at the top and the  
 small square panels <sup>are</sup> in line with the  
 door knob. The mantels are rather  
 plain but of the later Greek Revival type  
 and follow the design in wood that of the  
 shaker style which came into fashion  
 around 1830-40.

Floors original and very nice.

The back older section has a plain stair  
 and two rooms down stairs, the same plan upstairs.  
 Both have fireplaces. The old kitchen has a fuel  
 stone cooking fireplace with a crane.

Rather small being only about four  
 feet wide and less than three feet  
 six high. This room which is of good  
 size is still used as the kitchen.

The house is of stone structure with  
 the center bay accented with a wide  
 gable and the ridge the same height as.  
 The long main roof. Top floor hall has  
 a Palladian inspired window with Gothic  
 type arches above each section. The center  
 being the highest.

same three window Palladian type with a flat top. The front door has the side lights with a very shallow transom which hardly is noticeable in the deep stone reveal. However the door is a nice Greek Revival design following the same panelling as described in the interior hall doors and has nice pilasters and detailing.

ing  
 Located off route 108  
 213 10 Zion Road

May be seen on a knoll back from road

# Clover Hill

THE house shown here is another example of the fine craftsmanship of the Gaither family of Montgomery County, which craftsmanship is displayed in several of their superb old stone houses still standing in 1962. Numerous examples of their workmanship remain, although the well-known family name in Maryland seems to have pretty much disappeared from the upper part of the County where so many Gaithers lived in former years.

Ephraim Gaither became a man of influence and the owner of considerable property. It is believed that he built the older part of the above house at the time of his marriage. He was born April 24, 1780, a son of William and Elizabeth Howard Gaither of Anne Arundel County.<sup>1</sup> According to the Gaither family Bible,<sup>2</sup> he married in the City of Annapolis on April 16, 1820, Sarah Elizabeth Goldsborough who was born in 1790, a daughter of Richard and Achsah Worthington Goldsborough. There is no nobler name in all the history of Maryland than that of his wife. We believe the bride and groom went to this house to live.

This fine stone house with real Colonial lines stands on a promontory which slopes steeply to the highway about 300 feet away. It is on the west or left-hand side of the roadway as one drives from Mt. Zion toward Unity. It is two miles south of Unity, and twenty-four miles north of Washington. The farm is on part of "Addition to Brooke Grove," a grant to James Brooke of 7,906 acres made in September, 1762.

The Clover Hill house has one very unique feature. It has a perfectly spiral stairway, from first to third floors, the only one like it that the author knows of anywhere in Montgomery County. It is a remarkably fine piece of workmanship. It was said to have been built by a blacksmith-wheelwright of Baltimore, when the old original house was enlarged and remodelled in 1857 by Ephraim's son, Thomas Davis Gaither.

This stair has no supporting posts, no nails

were used as far as can be seen, and it is anchored to the wall on the outside diameter of the spiral, and supported on the cantilever principle. There is one newel post at the bottom, and there are 103 well-turned round spindles supporting the handrail. The whole structure, built of black walnut, is said to have been cut, sawed, and cured on the farm, except for the treads which are of long leaf pine, in excellent condition. The facia is ornamented by scrolls which, due to their irregularity, were no doubt cut out by hand on a jigsaw.

The rough stone of which the walls are constructed was quarried in the steep hill at the edge of the lawn. The outside of the walls has been covered with cement mortar, and the whole is well covered with English and Boston ivy, the antique charm of the place being softened thereby into an old Colonial effect.

When Ephraim Gaither died on the second of May, 1857, his obituary referred to him as Major Ephraim Gaither, age seventy-seven years. It continues: "Few men had enjoyed more fully through life the confidence and esteem of their fellows, and Montgomery has lost one of its most useful, influential, and valued citizens. He had repeatedly represented his native County in the Legislature. Whatever cause he espoused, he pursued it with undaunted courage."<sup>3</sup>

Gaither volunteered his services in 1812 to defend the "freedom of the press," when an assault was made on the "Federal Republican" office in Baltimore, and he received a musket shot, and, as his memorial further states, "he was the first to shed his blood upon that memorable occasion."<sup>4</sup> He was buried in the Gaither family plot, at Pleasant Fields, and his grave is marked with a marble tombstone, giving the dates of his birth and death. He was in the Maryland House of Delegates, in 1817-'18, '19, '20, and again served in 1829.

The last will of Ephraim Gaither, dated March 6, 1857, probated at Rockville, left the Clover Hill farm to his wife, Sarah Elizabeth, to hold during her lifetime, and provided that after her death it was to go to their son, Thomas Davis Gaither. He also devised her \$2,000 with

<sup>1</sup> *Anne Arundel County Gentry*, Henry W. Newman.

<sup>2</sup> This family Bible in possession of Mr. Richard Henry Hutchison, Jr.

<sup>3</sup> Clipping from Baltimore paper.

<sup>4</sup> Scharf's History of Western Maryland.

the interest thereon, also all stock and equipment, wagons, crops, and "my buggy and harness." Ephraim also left to his wife six negroes, one of them being "Milly," who had presented the plantation with seven offspring in twelve years, the date of the birth of each being recorded in the family Bible which is now in the possession of Mr. Richard Henry Hutchison, Jr.

To his son, Thomas Davis Gaither, the Major left 225 acres of his remaining land (not left to Sarah Elizabeth), and devised to him three negroes and \$1,500 cash. It was provided in the will that Thomas was to manage the farms of his own and his mother, and Thomas at once began the extensive additions to the old stone house. He served in the Confederate Army and married, in 1847, Elizabeth Worthington Gaither, in 1857 became the second wife of Dr. William Bowie Magruder, the picturesque country doctor of Oakley.

The date of the additions to the house, and the construction of the spiral stairway, is clearly established by a stone tablet imbedded into one end of the house near the caves, into which is chiseled: "Thomas D. Gaither, 1857." Examination of the house, and tradition obtained from some of the family, indicate that two additions were made to the original house before the third changes made by Thomas Davis Gaither in 1857. The original house consisted of the center part, two rooms deep from front to back, above which were corresponding rooms on the second floor. The front part of this original contained two rooms which were removed to put in the stairway, and to the rear is the typical old slave kitchen, with a fireplace 8 feet wide and 5 feet high with a large crane still in use which remains as a reminder of the ancient building.

At some time there were two rooms added to the left of the center, and Thomas added two rooms to the right when he built the stairs. In 1961 the house contains a front hall, library, living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor, five bedrooms and a bath on the second floor, and three bedrooms on the third floor. There is a cellar under one side of the main house.

The rare spiral stairway with the perfectly-curved handrail seems to invite runners, as around a track. Such an invitation was accepted by a well-known citizen of the County when he visited the house a few years ago. Allan Far-



NO. 17 D-8 EPHRAIM GAITHER CA. 1800  
STONE ADDITIONS BY THOMAS GAITHER 1857

quhar of "The Cedars," when well past eighty years of age, ran rapidly, for one of his age, to the third floor to the great surprise of the hostess of Clover Hill. When he came down, and was asked the cause of his haste, he replied, "I wanted to see if it was still there." Upon being questioned further he explained that he had visited Clover Hill when a small boy. He had run to the top of the stairway, and noticed a horse shoe tacked up over the attic door, and he "wanted to see if it was still there." It was!

Some traditions of the Gaither family and their descendants continue to filter down from prior generations. One of these is to the effect that residents of Clover Hill have taken part in every war in which their country has ever been engaged, from the Indian Wars and Braddock's Expedition, down through the Revolution, the Mexican, and Civil Wars, and on through World Wars I, and II.

In 1890 Henry R. Benson, Sr., of Rockville, purchased the old plantation of 360 acres from the Gaither heirs of that time and raised a family there. They farmed the place most successfully under the leadership of Henry Benson, Jr., until 1927 when the Clover Hill place with over 300 acres was purchased by Major J. W. Swaren.

The ancient stone manor house of the Gaither family, was purchased from Major Swaren, who died recently in Florida, by Mr. Richard Henry Hutchison, Jr.

Mr. Hutchison is a prominent horseman, and Master of the Redland Hunt, and also President and General Manager of the Laurel Raceway.



His wife seems delighted with life on the 360 acre place, from which the Redland hounds start off on their chases. About 50 fox hounds are kenneled at Clover Hill.

The Hutchisons have a daughter Mary Southwell in Sherwood School, and a son Richard Henry Hutchison is going to school in Laytonsville.

## Cloverly

**O**F THE number of attractive brick houses in the Sandy Spring neighborhood, Cloverly, although not of colonial origin, is one of the most pleasant and desirable. It was built in 1852 by Benjamin Rush Roberts.

Facing south, Cloverly stands on a knoll with large shade trees 200 yards to the north of the Sandy Spring-Ashton section of the state road twenty miles from Washington. The smooth texture of the red brick, partially ivy-covered, the white woodwork and dormer windows easily catch the eye. On the front the brickwork is



NO. 18 E-10 BENJAMIN RUSH ROBERTS 1852  
BRICK

Flemish bond; on the sides it is Federal bond. Cloverly stands on parts of Charley Forest and Snowden's Manor Enlarged which were old land grants made early in the eighteenth century.

When his health began to fail at the age of 41, Benjamin Rush Roberts, born in Pennsylvania in 1810, moved to the county. He was then a druggist in Baltimore. He had heard of Sandy Spring, with its reputation for congenial society and associations and the longevity of its resi-

dents. He and his wife, Mary Needles, whom he married in 1836, purchased forty-seven acres of land from Richard T. Bentley of Bloomfield. The property which adjoined both sides of the highway to Sandy Spring was known as Sherwood until 1888 when it was renamed Cloverly. Roberts donated the land lying south of the highway for a school. Known as Sherwood School, it was operated privately until assumed by the county in 1900 when it became Sherwood High School.

Rush Roberts prospered in his new environment, for he became a successful farmer and entered into the community life with enthusiasm and competence. He was made a director of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County in 1854, and remained in that capacity until his death in 1880. He built the grist mill, a valuable neighborhood industry, which is still in operation in Sandy Spring.

The Robertses, though childless, made their home a generous center of hospitality. During the war between the States, they made their home a recuperating center for Federal hospital nurses. One of the Roberts' servants was heard to remark: "If people were not nice when they came here, they had gotten so by the time they left." It was said of Roberts that his "cheerful disposition, charity of thought and kindly greeting to young and old, made his memory precious." His wife, Mary, was described in these words: "The charm of her manners and loveliness of disposition endeared her to a wide circle of loving and admiring friends." This husband and wife are supposed to have decided perplexing questions regarding money with the question: "Well, dear, is it something we *want* or something we *need*?"

Mary Needles Roberts was the founder of the local Woman's Association, the second women's





NAME #23-51 CLOVER HILL-BARN

LOCATION (9299 RD.) HOBBS RD., BROOKVILLE, MD.

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 1913

W. DWYER

burned, 1993